

Electrical Safety Awards Keeps Sailors Safe

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Navy shipboard electrical safety programs play key roles in keeping Sailors out of harm's way. This is especially true aboard USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), as she enters dry dock, known formally as a dry dock ship's restricted availability (DSRA) period.

"Naturally, there is an increased danger during availabilities," said Cdr. Michael McAlpin, *Kitty Hawk's* safety officer. "Our goal during this DSRA is to come out of it with no injuries or deaths."

"The electrical safety program is one tool we have to help us attain this goal," the commander added. "Electrical safety training and knowledge will help minimize injuries from electrical shock, which in turn will ensure all of our Sailors remain healthy and available to do their jobs."

"The electrical safety program is very important, because electricity will not play with you," said EM1(SW/AW) Carlito Soriano, *Kitty Hawk's* electrical safety division leading petty officer. "If you don't have knowledge about electricity, or you are not following procedures, it could kill you."

Kitty Hawk's electrical safety program's foundation comes from three documents: OpNavInst 5100.19D, *Kitty Hawk* instruction (HawkInst) 5101.2V, and the Naval Ships Technical Manual.

All three are available to ship's company on the carrier's intranet. Collectively, the three documents delineate command responsibilities and describe all electrical safety program elements. These include working on energized electrical equipment, personal protective equipment to be used and training requirements.

Kitty Hawk's electrical safety program is not just for Sailors who work with electrical or electronic equipment, according to Cdr. McAlpin.

"Everyone is exposed to potential electrical hazards every day," he said. "From an operations

specialist using a buffer to shine his deck, to the electrician's mate repairing a power panel, we all have to be aware of how we can get hurt by electricity."

One way to make sure the crew knows how to remain safe is by educating newly reporting Sailors about electrical safety, according to Petty Officer Soriano.

Everyone reporting aboard attends an electrical safety familiarization session as part of the command indoctrination course. This session is the first step for practicing electrical safety aboard *Kitty Hawk*, he said.

"As in all other safety-related programs, this [electrical safety education] is an all-hands evolution," stated Cdr. McAlpin. "The safety department has only thirteen people. We cannot be everywhere every day, so we rely on all to be on the lookout for hazards and report them to us, to their supervisors or to the command duty officer for resolution."

Some common hazards that may be encountered include electrical power tools lacking safety checks, damaged electrical tools and their cords, and power cords that have been run through doors and hatches and could be damaged when those doors or hatches are closed on them, according to the commander.

Other potential hazards for which Sailors have to be on the lookout include open electrical junction boxes and exposed cables, added Cdr. McAlpin. "With all the repair work, cleaning, removal and installation of equipment, we have to remain vigilant to electrical hazards, such as dead-ended cables and unsecured power sources."

"It's everybody's responsibility to be safe," emphasized Petty officer Soriano. ☺



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ICFN Jason Kraver troubleshoots a faulty component on an over-speed trip-panel circuit-card from the No. 4 main machinery room aboard USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63). Electrical safety is constantly emphasized aboard the forward deployed aircraft carrier, whose homeport is Yokosuka, Japan.

Photo by PH3 Jo Wilbourn